

Zaca Lease, Davis Tank Battery Spill 2008

Date of Spill: January 4-5, 2008

Location: Greka Oil and Gas, Zaca Lease, Davis Tank Battery, Los Olivos, California

Amount of Spill: Total (oil and water): 4623 barrels **Oil:** 1200 barrels

On the evening of January 4, 2008, the electric motor on the Zaca Lease Davis Tank Battery produce water injection pump failed. This caused the produce water tank to overflow the wastewater tank. The tank failed releasing oil and produce water into the secondary containment. This oil/water mixture migrated escaped the secondary containment through a 12' diameter corrugated steel pipe that was a direct conduit outside the secondary containment. There was no valve on the pipe to prevent migration of fluids from the secondary containment. The oil/water mixture migrated into an unnamed tributary of Zaca Creek. The spill cleanup was conducted by a contractor retained by Greka. The cleanup of the creek was completed on February 11, 2008. Remaining work includes restoration and repair of private property damaged during cleanup operations; repair of the Davis Tank Battery secondary containment, injection pump motor and waste water tank; and removal of water and oil generated under cleanup. Greka has until April 25, 2008 to repair the private property, May 1, 2008 to remove the fluids and May 5, 2008 to repair the roads. A Clean Water Act Section 311(c) Clean Up Order issued on January 30, 2008 by EPA to Greka.

Website: www.epaosc.org/GrekaDavisBatterySpill2008



Above: Oil contained next to the outlet from Davis Tank Battery secondary containment. Pipe outlet designated by the red arrow.

Picture: U.S. EPA

Below: Cleanup workers cleaning up oil in the unnamed tributary to Zaca Creek.

Picture: U.S. EPA



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Bradley 3 Island Oil and PCB Spill

Date of Spill: January 24, 2008

Location: Greka Oil and Gas, Bradley 3 Island Lease, Santa Maria, California

Amount of Spill: Total (oil and water): Unknown

On the morning of January 15, 2008, EPA and Santa Barbara County Petroleum conducted a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure inspection at the Bradley 3 Island Lease. During the inspection, an oil spill from a gas compression pump was noted. The spill had happened previously and was covered with fresh dirt. The EPA and County Inspectors directed Greka to cleanup the spill. An EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) also present at the spill advised Greka Zaca Lease spill Incident Commander to cleanup the spill that evening. On January 23, 2008, the EPA OSC and staff returned to the facility to determine if the spill had been cleaned up in anticipation of heavy rain, it had not. Again EPA directed Greka to mitigate the spill. On January 24, 2008, during a heavy rain storm, the EPA OSC and staff returned to the facility and observed that the spill had not been cleaned up and was migrating into a rain water runoff storage facility. Greka was actively pumping contaminated water from this area into a flowing creek adjacent to the facility. In addition, the contaminated runoff had breached the secondary containment in two spots and was entering the creek. EPA notified Santa Barbara County Fire Department, who issued a stop work order. On January 26, 2008 during that same storm, a power pole holding three transforms toppled over, releasing transformer oil into the facility runoff. Subsequent sampling documented the presence of low levels of PCBs. Additional sampling documented the presence of PCBs in the adjacent creek. The creek and the pond it drains to are habitat for the California Tiger Salamander, a Federal Endangered Species. The facility has been secured and EPA is currently reviewing plans to assess the extent of PCB contamination in the facility, creek and pond. EPA is currently negotiating an CERLCA Administrative Order on Consent with Greka for the PCB cleanup.

Website: www.epaosc.org/grekabradley



Above: Oil covered with dirt as observed during the Jan 15, 2008 inspection.

Picture: U.S. EPA

Below: Produce water injection ponds filed with oil to the point of overflowing.

Picture: U.S. EPA



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Bell Lease January 2008

Date of Spill: January 29, 2008

Location: Greka Oil and Gas, Bradley 3 Island Lease, Santa Maria, California

Amount of Spill: Total (oil and water): Approximately 200 barrels of oil and water

On or about January 29, 2008, a release occurred from the upper Bell Lease ponds (northern pond). The Spill was caused from a corroded pipe. Oil and water migrated from the corroded pipe through the soil and out the base of the impoundment. This oil and water mixture migrated east across Palmer road, through the eastern side of the Bell lease and discharged into an unnamed tributary of Sisquoc Creek. The oil migrated approximately 1.2 miles downstream into Sisquoc Creek. Sisquoc Creek is a tributary to the Santa Maria River which feeds into the Pacific Ocean. A Clean Water Act 311 (c) Order issued on January 31, 2008 by EPA to Greka. The cleanup of the creek is on-going. Greka has also been ordered to removed the sediment from the wastewater impoundment by EPA. On March 31, 2008, Greka was notified by EPA that EPA was assuming control of the cleanup. This was due to Greka's failure to remove the oil from the creek in a timely and efficient manner and failure to provide the documentation required under the Order. EPA began cleanup operations on April 1, 2008. The cleanup of the creek is expected to be completed on April 10, 2008. The cleanup of the ponds is expected to start on April 11, 2008 and take approximately 10 days to complete. Upon completion of the cleanup, EPA in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game will be restoring and repairing the creek and banks. Web Site: www.epaosc.org/Greka_Bell_3



Above: EPA START contractor and U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team collecting samples from Upper Bell Ponds to assess constituents.

Picture: U.S. EPA

Below: The Upper Bell Wastewater pond from which the spill originated.

Picture: U.S. EPA



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California Lease Well # 60 Flow Line

Date of Spill: March 3, 2008

Location: Greka Oil and Gas, California Lease, Well # 60 Flow Line, California

Amount of Spill: Total (oil and water): 5 barrels of oil and water

On March 2, 2008, the landowner discovered an oil spill in Bradley Canyon Creek and notified Greka. On the morning of March 3, 2008, Greka notified the Santa Barbara County Fire Department of the spill. EPA responded that morning. The spill was from the well flow line directly into the creek. It is unknown how long the spill has been going on, however based on the contamination patterns, the spill is at least several week old. The well is idle. Greka began the cleanup of the creek. EPA allowed Greka to conduct the cleanup. Greka was informed that any failure to properly cleanup the creek would result Greka permanent revocation from doing their own cleanup in creeks in which the spill was under EPA jurisdiction. The cleanup has been completed. EPA is currently awaiting a sampling plan for the confirmation sampling of the creek due on May 1, 2008. A Clean Water Act Cleanup Order was issued on March 6, 2008 by EPA to Greka.

Website: www.epaossc.org/Greka_CAL60



Above: Greka cleanup operations.

Picture: U.S. EPA

Below: Oil in the creek.

Picture: U.S. EPA



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Security Fee Lease, Well # 39

Date of Spill: February 3, 2008

Location: Greka Oil and Gas, Security Fee Lease, Well #30, California

Amount of Spill: Total (oil and water): 2 barrels of oil

On February 1 and 2, 2008, the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team (PST) representing the EPA OSC advised Greka to mitigate oil underneath the drill rig working on the well. Greka failed to cleanup the oil. On February 3, 2008, EPA and PST discovered the spilled oil was migrating in heavy rain into an unnamed tributary to Bradley Canyon Creek which drains to the Santa Maria River. As EPA was unable to contact Greka, EPA initiated response operations. Once Greka was contacted they took over response operations. The spill has been mitigated. EPA issued a Notice of Federal Interest to Greka for this spill.

Website: www.epaossc.net/Greka_Security_Fee_Well_30



Above: The original earthen berm, set up by the Greka drillers to contain the oil generated by the sand line. The boom around the berm was placed by EPA. The bermed area was originally overflowing with oil, but had been pumped by Greka.

Picture: U.S. EPA

Below: Sheen in the creek (denoted by red arrow).

Picture: U.S. EPA



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Security Fee Lease, Well # 9

Date of Spill: February 20, 2008

Location: Greka Oil and Gas, Security Fee Lease, Well #9, California

Amount of Spill: Total (oil and water): unknown

Greka notified the Santa Barbara Fire Department of a release from an underground pipeline at the Security Fee Lease Well# 9. EPA and the Fire Department arrived on location and observed that drip gas was leaking from a pipeline adjacent to the well. In addition, Greka had cleaned up a spill from around the well. Due to the elevated levels of flammable gas being emitted from the pipeline, an engine company was called. The engine company directed the Greka employees working on the cleanup to evacuate the area until the pipeline was closed. It should be noted that Greka did not have the necessary air monitoring equipment to detect this gas. While on-site, EPA noted that areas around the well were covered with fresh dirt. Upon closer look, those areas were oiled and covered with dirt. EPA brought this to the Greka supervisor's attention, who then directed the Greka employees to properly clean the well area. In addition the well cellar was full of fresh oil from the leaking well head. The cleanup has been completed and the well repaired. EPA issued a Notice of Federal Interest to Greka for this cleanup.

Website: www.epaossc.org/GrekaSecFee9



Above: Drip gas oily residue migrating upward from the subteranean pipeline.

Picture: U.S. EPA

Below: Fresh dirt on spilled oil.

Picture: U.S. EPA



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Gato Ponds Pipeline

Date of Spill: March 5, 2008

Location: North of Dominion Road between Palmer and Cat Canyon Roads

Amount of Spill: Total (oil and water): unknown

On March 5, 2008 at approximately 1545 hours, Greka's contractor while examining part of Sisquoc creek to be cleaned as part of the Bell 3 released discovered a leaking pipeline. The pipeline was identified by Greka Oil and Gas as the Gato Ponds overflow pipeline. The pipeline had two small holes in it. The pipeline leaked a small amount of oil and produce water into a pasture. The leak was approximately 100' south of Sisquoc Creek. Sisquoc Creek connects to the Santa Maria River, which drains to the Pacific Ocean. Greka personnel began cleanup operations that afternoon. Cleanup operations are expected to be completed on March 12, 2008.

Website: www.epaossc.org/Greka_Gato_Ponds



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**Greka Oil and Gas, Inc.
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